Availability of TV channels at airports

825. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only one television channel *viz.*, Star TV channel is being shown at all the major airports throughout the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a monopolistic position of the Star TV;

(c) whether it is proposed to level playing fields to other companies also in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Airports Authority of India had availed the services of an Advertising Agency on experimental basis for one year to install TV sets free of cost at Delhi and Mumbai Airports on Commercial licence fee payable to AAI. The facility has been appreciated by the passengers and AAI has decided to call for open tenders for installation of TV sets for which eligibility/ selection criteria have been drawn and approved by Commercial Advisory Board. As per the new terms, selected parties shall be bound to display various channels to avoid monopolistic display of one channel.

(c) and (d) In order to have more service providers and to have wider participation, open tenders are being invited at the airports.

Protection of investors' interest

826. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a group under Justice M.H. Kania has made some important suggestions with regard to the protection of investors' interest under the SEBI Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Steps taken/proposed to be taken to give effect to the suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An Expert Group headed by Mr. Justice M.H. Kania was constituted by SEBI Board to suggest amendments to Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Act, 1992. The Group *inter-alia* recommended a separate Investors' Protection Fund under the SEBI Act for the purpose of investor education and awareness and for compensation to the small investors in respect of fraud or misrepresentations or misstatements by companies or intermediaries. The Report has been put up on the SEBI website for public comments.

Status of Company Bill

827. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI R. KAMARAJ:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 24 given in the Rajya Sabha on 1st March, 2005 and state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce a new Bill on Companies Act during the Monsoon Session;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that many individuals/organizations have demanded simplicity in the Companies Act; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government is considering comprehensive revision of the Companies Act, 1956 to enable the Indian corporate laws to keep pace with economic changes and growth in the country. After publishing a concept paper on Company Law on August 4, 2004, the Government had constituted an Expert Group headed by Dr J.J. Irani to advice the Government on revision of Companies Act, 1956. The report of the Committee is on the website of the Ministry www.dca.nic.in. The recommendations are under examination. Proposals for amendment/revision of the Companies Act, 1956 would be brought up for enactment at the appropriate time.